



COMMUNITY COURIER

The Voice of Business

President's Message

As my term as President draws to a close I thought I would look back at a few highlights of the year with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce:

It is always a pleasure to have good luncheon and breakfast speakers and 2012 had quite a few. From Premier Brad Wall to Ministers of Finance, Ken Krawetz, and Advance Education, Don Morgan, we were able to hear where our Province is headed. We had the opportunity to learn about SIGA, from CEO Zane Hansen, and an update on how our City handles growth, from City Manager David Putz. I look forward to who 2013 is going to bring!

The Chamber noon luncheon and morning breakfasts are a great way to network and meet new members, mark the next one on your calendar.

Our Events committee was busy as usual. Our Bi-Annual Celebrate Success was held in 2012 which showcases the amazing caliber of businesses and gives everyone an opportunity to "Celebrate" their achievements. Congratulations to all of the nominees and winners from this year's event.

The highlight of this committee's year was our Business Dinner with

guest speaker Bruce Croxon from CBC's Dragon's Den. Bruce brought a wonderful message on the entrepreneurial spirit that is alive and well in Canada. It was a fun night and another opportunity to Celebrate the growth of our City.

The Public Policy Committee brought together a great Candidates forum for the 2012 Civic Election as well as continuing to bring forward issues that are raised by our Membership.

The Business Development Committee was very involved with supporting the Parkland College's desire to open a new Trades and Technology Centre. Letters of Support to all MLA's in the region, and bringing the message forward to both Premier Wall and Minister Morgan at their visits. The Centre will remain a top Priority for the Chamber for this project means so much to Business in this Region.

What about next year? Well, we have interesting times ahead. With the continued expansion in Potash and Agriculture, there will be great opportunity and challenges. We will continue to see growth like never before that will allow businesses that are prepared to grow and profit. The challenges remain ahead for us to develop a skilled labour force,



Ron Irvine

creating affordable housing for those workers and ensuring the city develops an infrastructure capable of meeting the needs of rapid growth.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors, a group of men and women who volunteer their time and energy to make this organization one of the best Chambers of Commerce in the province. The job they do makes our Yorkton a much better place for business and fosters a great working relationship with all orders of Government. And, our staff, Juanita and Sherry for keeping our group focused and who truly make everything the Chamber does possible.

Congratulations!



To **Sherring Gold** on receiving the Employer of Excellence Award (small business) from the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC) and to **Boston Pizza** on receiving the Employer of Excellence Award (medium business).

The Employer of Excellence Awards are presented to businesses who have an active mandate to hire people of all abilities.

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YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL November 2012

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 Nutter's Bulk & Natural Foods • Safire Clothing • Good Earths Shop • Hitching Post • Budget Blinds of Yorkton
 Carpet One • Prairie Paint • Wagners Flooring • McDiramid Lumber • Yorkton Welding • Hometown Source For Sports

Just to mention a few . . .

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Signboard: You can advertise on Yorkton's largest Signboard on the Yellowhead Highway! Call us for sizes and prices.

Courier Inserts: \$140 buys you a single 8x11 ad in our monthly newsletter which is distributed to over 900 businesses in Yorkton.

Bulk Email: We will email upcoming events for your business to our Members. We can't advertise prices/products but can promote Grand Openings, business anniversaries, charity events.

Website: Post your poster on our website (www.yorktonchamber.com) Our Members are all posted in our website.

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Did You Know?

- Saskatchewan is Canada's top producer of canola with close to half of Canada's total production.
- Investment in Saskatchewan is currently 3 times what it was 6 - 7 years ago." Paul Martin
- In a matter of 5 years, Saskatchewan became the leading exporter of pulse crops in the world. It took WalMart and Microsoft longer than 5 years to become world leaders." Paul Martin
- In the next decade, it is estimated that 12,000 businesses will be ready for sale. Not all of them have a succession plan." Paul Martin
- Due to innovation and productivity in the agriculture industry, Canadians, on average, just under 10% of their income on food; down from 20% about 40 years ago. This is an amazing story! Never has Canadian agriculture mattered more to Canada and the world." Jean-Philippe Gervais, Farm Credit Canada

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- December 31**
Business Licences expire.
Time to renew!
- February 15**
Deadline for paying Early Bird Chamber member renewal rates
- March 31**
Deadline for renewing Business Licences




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The Year in Review

Each Chamber Director serves on at least one of the Board's Standing Committees as well as a few ad hoc committees.

2012 was a busy and interesting year for the Chamber. Here are some of the highlights:

Executive Committee:

- Selected the top 4 choices for Sask Chamber Directors
- Directed the Executive Director on how to vote on the Resolutions put forth at the Sask Chamber of Commerce AGM
- Offered some direction on the 2013 proposed budget

Business Development Committee:

- Investigated some concerns expressed by local businesses
- Encouraged Chamber member businesses to complete the Perimeter Aviation survey
- Met with the City of Yorkton's Economic Development Committee to discuss common concerns
- In an effort to continue the momentum created by the now defunct Sask East Enterprise Region (SEER), the Chamber and City collaborated on planning and hosting a meeting of the region's Economic Development Officers and committees

Events Committee:

- Planned, organized and delivered the Celebrate Success Awards Gala in March
- Planned, organized and delivered the Chamber Business Dinner in October

Marketing & Communications Committee:

- Designed new Member Brochures. These Brochures are now located in the Business Licence Department at City Hall; in the Relocation packages prepared by Tourism Yorkton; and at Information Services Corporation.

Public Policy

- Supports the proposal by Parkland College to construct a Trades & Technology Centre
- Supports the Yorkton Airport Authority's efforts to attract regularly scheduled air service
- Responded to the Sask Government's public consultations



A sell-out crowd attended the Chamber's Business Dinner in October

- Organized the All Candidates' Forum for the city municipal election

Other

- Based on the work of the Governance Committee, the Board adopted a revised Constitution and Bylaws
- The Performance Review committee was established to review and make recommendations that will formalize the process for conducting the Performance Review of the Executive Director
- The Website committee selected a new website and contractor
- Contributed \$500 to a scholarship awarded by the Parkland College to a student enrolled in a business program at the College
- Met with the Consul General of the Netherlands
- Held 9 Business Breakfasts or Lunches
- Conducted 2 on-line member surveys
- Attended each City of Yorkton Council meeting
- Administers a Small Business Loan Association
- Regular postings on facebook and produced 11 editions of the Courier
- Staff conducted member visits throughout the summer



Chamber members attended 9 Business Breakfasts or Lunches



Premier Brad Wall outlined the province's plans for the future at a recent Chamber Lunch.